

INTERNATIONAL CITY MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION
1313 EAST 60TH STREET - CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS

Page 715

Report
106 Nov.-'52

Route To:

Return To:

This report was prepared in response to an inquiry from a municipality subscribing to this Service and is distributed to all subscribers. The contents may not be reproduced without permission.

MUNICIPAL REGULATION OF DOGS

What are reasonable provisions for regulation of dogs in the interest of public health and safety? What provisions should be included to protect the interests of dog owners? What are the elements of good pound or shelter design and operation?

Problems associated with dogs generally increase as urban population intensifies. Dogs are the chief domestic carrier of rabies, a disease that is transmitted by biting and is generally fatal to both humans and animals. When allowed to run at large, as in rural areas, dogs are potentially dangerous to livestock. In built up sections of cities, besides being a "biting" hazard, they create public health, sanitation, and nuisance problems.

Precedents for cities to abate such safety, health, or nuisance conditions are well-settled. The National Association of Municipal Law Officers has covered this phase of the subject thoroughly in "Municipal Regulation of Dogs--Model Ordinance Annotated" (1953). A parallel responsibility to protect the property rights of dog owners and to insure against abuse of animals has grown up, fostered largely by local organizations affiliated with the American Humane Association.

This report is based on dog control practices reported by 28 selected cities and urban counties and on recommendations of the United States Public Health Service, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the American Humane Association. The report is divided into two sections, the first describing elements of effective dog control, and the second setting forth recommendations for pound or animal shelter operation.

Elements of Dog Control

A good dog control program should be administrable and enforceable. It should protect private and public property against physical damage and nuisances, set up reasonable safeguards for public health and safety, protect the public in its right to keep dogs, and protect dogs from abuse or mistreatment.

The principal elements of a dog control program are: (1) licensing and registration; (2) possible provision for vaccination; (3) regulations to prevent dogs from running at large unless controlled by competent persons; (4) enforcement; (5) regulation of private kennels and animal hospitals; and (6) establishing responsibility of owners for their pets.

Provisions for dog control that cannot be enforced consistently either should be omitted from ordinances or included only in conditional form, to be invoked as required.

Licensing and Registration. Licensing is the basic means of controlling the ownership and movement of dogs. By prohibiting possession of a dog without a license, a city discourages dog thefts, identifies and provides for picking up strays, insures

that owners will be notified if their dogs are picked up for running at large, and finances the dog control program. Of the 28 cities surveyed by the International City Managers' Association, 25 reported that dogs are licensed.

Of 18 cities reporting the amount of the license fee, 13 show a higher fee for females than for males and spayed females. For females the fee runs from \$1 to \$5 with a median of \$2. The license for males and spayed females runs from \$1 to \$3 with the median at \$1.50. The purpose of differential rates is to discourage dog owners from keeping unspayed females. Rate differentials have been sustained by courts, but their effectiveness is questionable. A flat fee high enough to finance the control program--including animal shelter operation--simplifies administration. Six places with a single license fee are: Fulton County (Atlanta), Ga.; San Diego, Calif.; Greensboro, N. C.; Chicago and Glencoe, Ill.; and Fair Lawn, N. J.

In Long Beach, Calif., the licensing procedure provides for a post card notice to all previous purchasers of dog licenses, mailed a month before the license becomes due. The card may be filled out and returned with a check or money order, whereupon the license and receipt are issued. Several weeks after the post card notices have been mailed, field solicitors from the animal shelter division visit all residences in the city. They are authorized to sell licenses on the spot if a dog owner has not yet bought his license. If an owner is not home or is unable to buy the license at the time, the investigator leaves a notice which allows the owner five days in which to obtain the license.

Most cities require that dogs wear distinctive license tags whose shape or color is changed each year. The San Diego ordinance states that whenever a dog has lost his license the owner may obtain a new receipt and tag expiring on the same date as the original by paying a replacement fee; that whenever the ownership of a dog changes the new owner may pay a transfer fee and have the license transferred to him by endorsement on the records of the city treasurer, and that no license fee shall be required for dogs which served with the armed forces during World War II or which guide people with defective eyesight.

Licensing jurisdiction may lie with the city clerk, as in Eugene, Ore., Modesto, Calif., or Brookfield, Ill., with the health officer as in Fulton County, with the treasurer as in San Diego, with the police chief as in Greensboro, or with a special animal shelter division as in Long Beach. City clerks are the most frequent licensing authorities in the 28 cities in this report. When the clerk performs most other licensing functions for the city, dog licenses need not be an exception.

Recording of age, sex, breed, length of hair, and markings at the time of licensing is required in eight of the 28 cities. The other 20 cities either do not require such detailed registration or are silent on the matter. Registration establishes responsibility of the owner for animals in his possession, aids identification and facilitates recovery of stolen dogs.

A New York state law, applicable in all municipalities, requires the chief of police to conduct an annual census of dogs by listing names and addresses of owners and tag numbers of licensed dogs and by giving full descriptions of unlicensed dogs. Copies of this report go to the local licensing officer, the local health department, and the state health department. Such a periodic census gives more effective enforcement of a dog control ordinance, increases public confidence, and enables a city to make closer estimates of revenue from licenses. Glencoe recently conducted such a census and found that 700 of 1,900 families in the village owned one dog or more.

Vaccination. Only seven of the 28 cities surveyed require annual vaccination of dogs against rabies, while 17 definitely do not require it. According to data compiled by the U. S. Public Health Service in March, 1952, four states (Alabama, Arizona, North Carolina, and South Carolina) have compulsory anti-rabies vaccination laws. Seventeen other states have enabling legislation, and some cities and counties in these states have adopted compulsory vaccination requirements.

The health departments of the following states are active in encouraging voluntary local programs: California, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. The Public Health Service vigorously promotes anti-rabies vaccination, sometimes with good local support. In California, for example, the Conference of Local Health Officers, the California Medical Association, the State Veterinary Medical Association, and the state health department all have endorsed the program. In cities and counties where rabies has reached epidemic proportions and annual vaccination has been instituted, as in Golden, Colo., and Montgomery County, Ala., the incidence of rabies has been drastically reduced.

The rabies vaccine is considered effective for one year. It prevents dogs from acquiring the disease or from transmitting it. A dog suspected of rabies should be confined for two weeks, the normal period during which overt symptoms develop, and should be allowed to die of the disease if he actually has it. The presence of rabies in an animal can be definitely established only by pathological examination of a part of the brain.

Rabies is considered fatal in human beings. Persons bitten by a rabid dog ordinarily are subjected to a series of 14 or 21 treatments, described as painful, not always effective, and sometimes productive of serious reactions. Studies in the Los Angeles area from 1940 to 1946 indicated that the chance of getting rabies from dog bites was 1 in 1,400, while the chance of reaction to the Pasteur treatment was 1 in 610. Largely because treatment must often be started before rabies in the dog has been confirmed, certain health authorities feel a positive program of dog immunization is desirable.

Typical ordinance provisions regarding vaccination are these: Fulton County--It is unlawful for any person to keep any dog three months of age or over unless the dog has been vaccinated and holds a current unexpired license tag and certificate; San Diego--Each license applicant must furnish proof that the dog for which the license is requested has been vaccinated for rabies (no dog need be vaccinated, however, if a licensed veterinarian and the public health director agree that vaccination would endanger its health because of age or other physiological consideration). San Diego is the only city, of those studied, that provides for vaccination at the animal shelter when a dog is redeemed; Greensboro--No tag shall be issued unless the owner or person making application therefor shall present evidence issued by a duly appointed rabies inspector showing the dog for which the metal tag is issued has been vaccinated by the administration of anti-rabic vaccine within a period of 12 months prior to such application.

In the seven cities that require vaccination, only a licensed veterinarian may do the work. In five of these cities (Brookfield, Ill.; Ft. Worth, Tex.; Greensboro, N.C.; Minot, N. D.; and San Diego), he merely issues a vaccination certificate which is prerequisite to obtaining the license from the city clerk. Thus the city maintains fiscal and administrative control over licensing. The other two places (Fulton Co., Ga., and Golden, Colo.) carry on decentralized operations in which veterinarians are deputized to administer the whole program--vaccinate animals, issue licenses, and

collect fees. A third method, sometimes used in epidemics, is for the health department to establish a clinic and to administer vaccine at public expense. The Fulton County ordinance illustrates this point: "The health officer may conduct clinics for the purpose of vaccinating dogs. The cost of these clinics will be borne by the County Health Department, but a license tag fee of \$1 only will be paid by the dog owner for each dog vaccinated." This plan may be followed in a city which does not have the power to compel vaccination.

The Public Health Service states that 70 per cent of the dogs in a community must be vaccinated in order to create an effective barrier against transmission of rabies. This figure is at present based on experienced judgment rather than experimental evidence, according to Public Health Service sources, and some other organizations have found that rabies can be eradicated without vaccination by enforcement of proper control measures including complete elimination of strays through licensing and restraint laws. The need for an immunization program and the wisdom of it should be determined locally in the light of community conditions.

Running at Large. A dog is at large when he is off his owner's premises and not restrained by a competent person. Prohibitions against running at large range from complete freedom to complete restriction. An obedient dog, under control of a competent person, need not always be leashed. One purpose of these restrictions is to eliminate nuisances such as tearing up gardens or creating disturbances at night. In highly urbanized communities, restrictions have the more serious intent of reducing the number of strays, thus reducing the opportunity for the spread of disease.

Of the 28 cities surveyed, 11 require either that all dogs be confined to their owners' premises or that they be kept on leash at all times. The Eugene ordinance states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to permit any dog to run at large within the city", and in Modesto the ordinance provides that no dog shall be permitted on any public street or in a park or other public place unless it is on a leash and under the complete control of some person. The leash may be up to eight feet long. In Long Beach when a dog is observed running at large and the owner can be found, the animal inspector leaves a warning notice which reads in part: "Your cooperation with the law is respectfully urged for the protection of the public and your pets."

San Diego has designated special park areas, supervised by the city recreation director, as exercise and training grounds where dogs may be allowed to run at large. This city and several others have adopted prohibitions against vicious dogs. San Diego defines a vicious dog as one "that has bitten three or more people or which is known or should be known to have a propensity to bite or attack people or other animals." Possession of a vicious dog is unlawful unless he is restrained or muzzled so that he cannot bite or attack. The only defense against a criminal complaint in this case is proof that the person bitten was entering property with criminal intent or was engaged in assault or battery.

The problem of nuisances on property should lead cities to limit the places where household pets may relieve themselves of bodily wastes, but only three of the 28 cities appear to have considered the matter at all. Eugene had a war ordinance providing that running at large, polluting vegetation, or trespassing on private property was a nuisance. San Diego provides succinctly: "No person shall allow or permit a dog to commit a nuisance on any public property or any improved private property other than that of the owner or person who has accepted custody of such dog, provided that the foregoing shall not apply to street gutters. It shall be the duty of all persons having control of the dog to curb such dog in order to carry out the intent of this section." Glencoe, Ill., has a similar statement. Enforcement of such a

provision may be difficult, but it is one to which officials and the public might give more serious and thoughtful consideration.

Enforcement. Cities that do their own animal control work should consolidate the duties under one responsible head in a single department. Several cities have semi-independent "pound masters" with limited powers of police officers--Fort Worth, Minot, and Modesto. In San Diego the animal shelter is under the direction of the city manager in the department which he designates and is staffed by a pound master and deputies, but the health, police, and parks and recreation departments also have enforcement responsibilities.) In Long Beach the city-owned animal shelter division is in the public service department and has its own director and 11 animal inspectors who are special police officers charged with enforcing animal regulations only. This organization follows a pattern similar to that in Los Angeles where it originated. It is considered the ideal for animal control operation throughout the country.

Cities having animal control contracts with humane societies may delegate the enforcement function to agents of the societies. Agents are given special police powers limited to the laws concerning animal control and are bonded by their societies. Agents of most humane societies are empowered to enforce anti-cruelty statutes even if the city maintains its own animal control division. All states have anti-cruelty statutes, and some cities have ordinances supplementing the state laws.

In some places where the health aspects of dog control are put first, regulation may come from public health officials. The U. S. Public Health Service recommends this because the dog is a carrier of human disease. In the Fulton County ordinance which says that dogs or other animals in certain categories may be impounded, the health officer is the only agent mentioned and the dog pound is operated by him. In New Jersey, state and local health departments establish regulations for the dog control program but the chief of police is charged with carrying them out. In Brookfield, Greensboro, and Chicago, enforcement--including pound operation--is centered in the police department. Physical enforcement of dog regulations is more nearly related to police than to public health services.

Most dog ordinances provide penalties for violation. The Minot ordinance says that "any person, firm, or corporation violating any of the terms of this ordinance shall upon conviction thereof be punished by a fine not to exceed \$100 and by imprisonment not to exceed 90 days, the court to have power to suspend such sentence and in its discretion to revoke the suspension thereof." Modesto is more stringent, providing for a \$500 fine or six months in jail or both. In Brookfield the penalty is less stringent, being any amount between \$1 and \$50 with no jail sentence; but each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

It appears traditional that such penalties as these are not enforced. In the 28 cities surveyed, the fees charged for redeeming an impounded animal show no evidence of including a fine. However, the new Glencoe ordinance sets a redemption fee of \$10 plus license fee and full cost of board. This is more than twice as high as the highest redemption fee in the other 27 cities. The police chief of Eau Claire, Wis., feels that intensive enforcement of the dog ordinance at the same level as traffic, for example, would require more personnel and a larger financial outlay than can be justified by the benefit received. Feasibility of administration should be considered therefore in drawing up a dog control ordinance.

Regulation of Private Kennels and Animal Hospitals. Kennels are places where three or more dogs are kept for breeding and the pups are sold for profit, or where dogs are received for care or boarding. Cities that authorize kennels are uniform in

providing a single kennel license to cover all dogs kept on the premises. In Fair-lawn the annual license fee for a kennel providing accommodations for 10 dogs or fewer is \$10; for more than 10 dogs it is \$25. All licenses issued for kennels, pet shops, or shelters must state the purpose for which the establishment is maintained and are subject to revocation on recommendation of the local or state health department for failure to comply with the rules for operating such places.

In Brookfield the veterinary hospitals pay an annual license fee of \$10. The license is conditioned on inspection and recommendation by the village health officer. Hospitals must be kept free from decaying food and filth of any kind, are subject to inspection by health officers at any time, must maintain separate facilities for confinement of rabies cases and must report to the health department any diseases existing in the hospital.

In addition to sanitary requirements, the San Diego ordinance requires city plan commission approval of kennel sites and provides that all kennels must be located in well-isolated sections of the city. Animals must be kept not less than 20 feet from doors and windows. A nonconforming kennel--one already established in a congested area--must house its animals in soundproof rooms. All feed must be stored in ratproof containers tightly covered and protected against rats and other contamination, and meat when used must be kept in properly maintained refrigerators. The Modesto ordinance prohibits a kennel license until the applicant has obtained written consent of 75 per cent of the property owners and/or tenants within a radius of 300 feet of the proposed site.

Establishing Responsibility of Dog Owners. Few cities have set standards for responsibility of animal owners for their pets. San Diego is one exception. In San Diego it is unlawful for anyone owning or having custody of a dog to fail to provide it with adequate food, water, and shelter at all times. Some cities regard the annual requirement for anti-rabies vaccination as a means of encouraging individual responsibility for proper dog care.

Montgomery County and Glencoe go a step further, to protect dogs from abuse by non-owners. In a section entitled "Injuring or Killing Dogs" the Montgomery County ordinance provides that no person shall wilfully injure, abuse or run down any dog or cat with a vehicle or wilfully kill any dog or cat not owned by him except as may be expressly permitted by law. Anyone who kills or injures a dog while driving a car must stop at the scene of the accident and render such assistance as is practicable, and make a reasonable effort to locate and identify himself to the owner or any person having custody of the dog. The ordinance provides a strong penalty for a person convicted of poisoning a dog or cat or leaving poison anywhere with intent to do so. It is also unlawful in Montgomery County to abandon an animal.

The Montgomery County ordinance authorizes the county manager to enter into agreements with veterinarians for taking care of injured or diseased dogs or cats whose owners are unknown and which have been picked up as strays or have been brought in by citizens. At its own expense, the county feeds and cares for all animals brought to the shelter for at least five days and until they are redeemed or disposed of. Such provisions as these should be provided in a good dog ordinance to protect the animals and to encourage public responsibility for their care.

Animal Shelter Operation

Every community with a dog control program must provide some place for housing animals picked up as strays or biters, and for disposing of unclaimed animals. Poor

design, inadequate financing, or indifference has brought the dog pound in many cities into disrepute as unsanitary and inhumane. The remedy is to provide "animal shelters" --a term recommended by the American Humane Association--that are well-designed, adequately financed, and competently operated. Recommendations for design, staffing, and operations are given below.

Shelter Design. Animal shelters should be laid out so they can be kept clean, dry, and well-ventilated and allow the animals to get sunshine and exercise. A well-designed building should be fireproof, have enough kennel space to segregate males from females and puppies from older dogs, provide a sufficient number of isolation cages for bite and sick cases, include outdoor exercise yards, have good drainage facilities, provide adequate heating, have hot water or, even better, steam for cleaning, and include a small office, a kitchen for preparing food, a cat room with individual cages, a garage, a lethal room, a morgue, and quarters for night and weekend attendants.

All dogs except biters and those that are sick may be grouped in cages, with puppies segregated from older dogs and males from females. Diseased or vicious animals should have individual cages. Cats should have separate cages in a separate room. The American Humane Association will lend shelter plans to interested cities.

Sanitation. A portable steam cleaner is desirable. It cleans thoroughly, is an effective germ killer, and facilitates drying. Because of its mobility it can be used in any room including the lethal chamber, the morgue, and the trucks. Detergents rather than disinfectants should be used with hot water because some disinfectants contain coal tar, which is harmful to cats, and in general are not as effective. Thorough cleaning should be done daily immediately before visiting hours and droppings should be removed several times during the day. Diseased or injured animals should be put in isolation as soon as their condition is observed.

Disposition of Animals. The length of time animals should be held for redemption will depend on local conditions and population, and on public familiarity with the dog regulations. The most common provision among the cities surveyed was three days with a dog being put up for sale, adoption, or euthanasia (killing animals painlessly) at the end of that time. A number of cities hold private sales or auctions after the minimum holding period has expired. Among these are Fort Worth, Tex., and St. Petersburg, Fla., which hold private sales, and Greensboro and San Diego which hold auctions. Chicago holds a sale three afternoons a week and the buyer may take any dog he chooses by paying \$4.75 and the license fee.

One person should be responsible for disposing of animals by euthanasia. The lethal chamber should be out of sight and hearing of the shelter animals and not open to the public. Carbon monoxide gas, generated by any gasoline engine is the most common method of elimination. Another method which is considered safer for workers and is gaining favor is the high altitude chamber, a chamber from which the air is exhausted. The unit costs about \$2000 to install. Cities may obtain descriptions and diagrams of euthanasia methods from the American Humane Association.

Dead animals should be cremated, either in a municipal incinerator or in a crematory. Rendering plants may occasionally contract for the carcasses. A separate room should be set aside for all dead animals, until they can be picked up and disposed of. Daily pickup is desirable. If this is not possible the morgue should be refrigerated.

Care and Feeding of Animals. Animals should be fed daily at regular hours. Puppies and kittens under five months of age should be fed at least twice a day.

Food and water pans should have round bottoms without creases and they should be cleaned daily with hot water or steam.

Equipment. Animal catching and transporting equipment consists of panel trucks with divided cages and various items for personal use of the animal handler. Trucks have proved to be the most practical for large or small operations; removable metal cages can be installed which will give the equipment more use for other hauling needs. Cage blue prints can be obtained from the AHA. Trucks should be thoroughly cleaned daily especially after carrying any diseased animal. The steam cleaning method is best suited for this purpose. The truck can be driven up on a semi-ramp to facilitate better drainage. Chicago uses half-ton trucks with a common cage. Pontiac and Long Beach use radio-equipped trucks with separate cages.

Radio contact is desirable for directing the trucks to trouble spots quickly and for controlling the activities of the dog wardens. The trucks should be equipped with one or more dog and cat traps of a type that will not injure the animal, a cat pole for rescue work, a dog restraining stick, an electric lamp for night work, a blanket on which to lift and carry sick or injured animals, leashes and restraining ropes, and a first aid kit. Each dog warden should have a pair of protective gloves, and rubber boots should be available for water rescues when required. The American Humane Association stocks most of the traps and personal equipment listed above and portable steam cleaners as well. Specifications also can be furnished to cities interested in making their own equipment.

Personnel. Qualifications for shelter personnel are hard to determine by civil service examinations. Generally those who work inside with the animals perform custodial work in cleaning runs and cages, setting out feed and water, and washing utensils. One person can adequately handle all of the inside work occasioned by 50 dogs on an eight hour shift. Shelter personnel may be trained to carry additional responsibility besides custodial work, such as the first aid treatment of injured or sick animals, operation of the lethal room or maintenance of records. The most important single intangible quality is a manner which wins the confidence of animals.

Humane inspectors or wardens who spend most of their time outside in answering complaints or picking up strays may need higher mental and physical requirements than shelter personnel. [The functions they perform are essentially those of the police in enforcing dog laws and in meeting the public under circumstances that require considerable tact and judgment. The responsibilities of dog wardens may be less than those of regular patrolmen, however, since their work is specialized, and the number of unforeseen circumstances that require independent judgment are correspondingly less.

In-service training of animal shelter personnel is highly desirable. Long Beach has given its 11 animal inspectors special courses in public relations, care and feeding of animals, dog obedience, first aid and common diseases of animals. The American Humane Association which has established standards for training, conducts regional conferences and assists cities in setting up satisfactory training programs. Regional meetings for shelter operators run for two days and generally serve an area with a radius of 400 miles.

Records. Animal shelter records are used to identify animals, to indicate their disposition, and to measure the activity of the operation. The city-owned animal shelter in Long Beach is considered by the American Humane Association to have a model record system. The Long Beach records having to do with licensing and running-at-large have already been described. The others will be mentioned briefly here.

The Kennel Card is the basic shelter record, showing receipt and disposition of all animals impounded. Two copies of this card are kept, one filed by the month and the other, a cross reference, filed by the dog's kennel number. The cards contain a short description of the dog with his license number, if known, and space to show how disposition was effected, whether by sale, redemption, or destruction.

A Report of Dog Bite is made out for every such case reported. At the same time an inspector is sent to investigate. If he determines that the animal should be quarantined, he posts a red Animal Quarantine Notice on the premises. Pertinent data from the dog bite report are sent to the public health department for follow-up on conclusion of the case.

Some animals taken into custody have been released voluntarily by their owners. When this is the case, the owner fills out a Dog Release authorizing disposition by any humane means and releasing the city from responsibility in connection with the disposition.

Animal inspectors in Long Beach are dispatched in radio controlled vehicles and the operator maintains a log of all calls received. This log contains the name and address of the caller, the nature of the call, location, disposition, and time completed.

Field license inspectors, who are unsupervised while making rounds, record licenses on pre-numbered receipts. They also complete a Daily Field Work Report, showing the number of licenses sold by sex of the animal, the amount of money collected, number of license notices issued, and a distribution of working time.

The shelter division prepares a monthly activity report based on the records described above. It includes the number of animals received by type, and shows whether they were impounded by truck or by owners; the number disposed of by sale, redemption, and destruction; the amount of impounding fees and sale fees collected, number of licenses issued by sex, and the total amount of money collected.

One-half of the 28 cities in this report require some kind of formal notice to the owner of a licensed dog when it has been impounded. The Wisconsin statute provides that the officer to whom a dog is delivered or by whom it is impounded "shall notify the owner personally, or through the U. S. mail if such owner be known or can be ascertained with reasonable effort." If the owner is unknown, written notice must be posted in three public places. The notice must describe the dog, tell where it is impounded, and give conditions for its release within 48 hours. A New Jersey statute, affecting all New Jersey communities and providing for collection of all stray dogs, requires that owners be notified in writing and the dogs be kept in custody for seven days. In McCook, Nebraska, only a public notice, posted on the bulletin board at the police station for 72 hours, is required as notification that a dog has been impounded.

Financing. One-half of the 28 cities impose service charges for maintenance of stray dogs that are ultimately redeemed. Brookfield charges a redemption fee of \$3.50 plus \$1 for each day the dog was in custody and requires the owner to purchase a license. Greensboro charges \$3 plus costs. Montgomery County has a \$2 redemption fee and requires the owner to buy a license, but furnishes board at its own expense as long as the animal is held in the shelter.

Shelter operation is never self-supporting. The physical plant, equipment and personnel required considerably exceed in cost the amount that can be obtained from redemption fees or the sale of a few animals. Glencoe, however, is trying to make its

operation self-supporting by contracting with private veterinarians for boarding impounded dogs and charging a \$10 redemption fee in addition to license and boarding charges. Contracting with rendering plants for disposal of carcasses may help to offset the cost of disposition, and laboratories that take animals for experimentation may be required to pay redemption fees. The practice of releasing animals for experimentation is strongly opposed in some communities, however.

An animal shelter is essential to good dog control and the protection of public health. Financing of its operation must be budgeted, and the funds provided from dog license fees. Fees should be set high enough to support the control program without subsidy from other sources. The shelter need not be operated by the city, however. A number of cities contract with local humane societies for their dog control programs. Among those with good contracts are Eugene, Ore.; Las Vegas, Nev.; Pontiac, Mich.; Wichita, Kan.; Oklahoma City, and New York City. The city pays part of the cost of operation and the society furnishes plant, equipment, and personnel, or some combination of these. In New York City and Eugene the humane societies' dog catchers are given police powers equivalent to those of an officer who might be employed by the city.

Where the society is organized on a county-wide basis, as in Oakland County (Pontiac), Michigan, the operation may be financed jointly by the county, several communities, and the private agency, with the city providing trucks and personnel for intra-city work but leasing space at the shelter for animals it picks up. The Eugene agreement with the Lane County Humane Society provides that the Society will maintain a shelter, supply trucks for transporting dogs, provide the necessary personnel, and post a performance bond of \$1,000. The city pays the Society a flat sum of \$270 a month plus \$1 impounding fee for each dog taken into custody and 65 cents a day board for each dog. It also pays the actual cost of veterinary and hospital expenses and the cost of disposing of animals.

Note: Helpful suggestions in the preparation of this report were supplied by Warren McSpadden, general manager, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, New York City; Dr. James H. Steele, chief veterinary public health officer, United States Public Health Service; James W. Bibb, director of animal regulation, Long Beach, California; Robert B. Morris, city manager, Glencoe, Ill.; and Mel L. Morse, executive director, American Humane Association. Interested cities may obtain specifications for animal shelters and equipment and information on shelter operation from the American Humane Association, 135 Washington Ave., Albany 10, New York. MIS will furnish sample ordinances and record forms on request.